



What upcoming projects are you working on?

Since joining Archway Gallery on June 2019, as its newest member and discovering that my solo show there will take place within a year's time, I have diligently and excitedly been creating works for it. Ever since wholly engaging myself in the arts a couple of years ago, I have concentrated a body of work exploring the beauty and the individual stories of the people I constantly meet in Houston. My month-long solo show at Archway Gallery will have an opening reception on June 6, 2020 and I hope my art will be as every bit celebratory of Houston's diversity in final form as how I continuously envision and experience this city to be.

What was the very first independent creative project you worked on?

I am currently working on is my solo show at Archway Gallery in June 2020. This show will showcase my portraiture work rendered mostly in my signature hand-cut layered paper technique, though I may also include work in other media. The body of work for this show will explore my current artistic pursuit of celebrating the beauty and individual stories of the people I meet here in Houston, the most diverse city in the country.

Where are you from?

I was born in the Philippines, but have in Texas for most of my life after my family immigrated to the United States. Art has been integral to me ever since becoming an avid student throughout High School. I intended to pursue an artistic endeavor in college, however, the career that developed led me to a completely different field from the arts. For years since, I had all but given up on art, but when I began drawing and painting again in 2016, I found a renewed vigor in the creative process, and my life took on a completely new meaning and purpose.

What types of mediums do you work in?

Though I learned a variety of dry and wet media in High School, the former became my favored tool. Graphite, charcoal, colored pencils, crayons, and pastels are my main mark-making instruments; however, scissors developed alongside these back in high school. Since then, and especially in the last two years, I have rendered portraits in layers of colored paper, hand-cut with scissors and pen blades.

Thematically, what is your work usually about?

Ever since I learned to formally draw, I have always been intrigued by the human form. This fascination has led to my exploring various aspects of the human condition and experience through my portraiture work, from ideas relating to self and identity, to topics about diversity. My current artistic pursuit is to visually celebrate the diversity and the individual stories of the people I meet whose walks of life all led to the multicultural and multiethnic rich city of Houston.

I pursue portraiture that celebrates diversity and elevate everyone because as an immigrant to this country, I have observed that conversations only become meaningful and beneficial to all involved once recognition and appreciation of the fact that all that makes us different is what makes us so similar, occurs.

What recent projects are you most proud of?

Though I feel proud of the work that I create that resonate with others, the pursuit in the arts that bring me the most pride is the privilege of serving as a board member and volunteer for the Visual Arts Alliance (VAA) since 2017. VAA is a non-compensated, all-volunteer-run non-profit arts organization that has provided educational programs and exhibition opportunities for Houston-area artists since 1981. Giving my time for an organization that provides value to our art community has been a personally invigorating experience.

Why do you create art?

Though I create art that I hope to eventually sell, I am driven to make not for financial gain but rather for personal satisfaction that I am contributing to broader conversations in our society on topics I value, predominantly the celebration of our beautiful diversity.

ANTHONY PABILLANO

